



Cosumnes, American, Bear & Yuba River
Integrated Regional Water Management

February 7, 2007

Ms. Tracie Billington
California Department of Water Resources
Division of Planning and Local Assistance
901 P Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Ms. Farahanak
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Ms. Billington and Ms. Farahanak,

As the executive director of the Cosumnes, American, Bear and Yuba (CABY) IRWMP, I am proud to report the recent adoption of the CABY IRWMP by over 20 of our participating organizations in anticipation of the second competitive funding cycle of Proposition 50.

It is our understanding that the State is now proposing to eliminate the second cycle. This proposal discredits DWR's process, the collaborative effort of the CABY region and the overall momentum of IRWMP development state-wide. As with so many collaborative efforts, it is difficult to bring different water interests together for the overall benefit of a regional, integrated, multi-beneficial approach to water management. Proposition 50 provided the incentive for many water agencies to collaborate and partner with land use agencies and NGOs for the first time. Although the benefits of IRWMPs extend beyond Proposition 50, for three years DWR has been promising a second round of funding. In fact, DWR staff has been intimately involved in the CABY process providing essential guidance and technical assistance throughout the development. All CABY participants have relied upon the information provided by staff and guidance materials which have repeatedly stated there would be another opportunity for funding under Proposition 50. As you can understand all those that have worked so hard on CABY IRWMP are demoralized by the State's proposal.

The CABY region has been working collaboratively with approximately 80 participants to develop an IRWMP that will meet the Proposition 50 guidelines. In 2005 CABY submitted a planning grant proposal and an implementation proposal to the first round of Proposition 50. CABY was successful in the planning grant (\$500,000), but was told by the State that we were ineligible for implementation funds because the IRWMP was not developed. This was contrary to the Prop 50 guidelines that allowed plans in development as long as they adopted the IRWMP by January 1, 2007. However, acting in good faith and spirit of cooperation, the CABY region followed DWR direction by focusing on plan development for the second round of Proposition 50 funding. On hindsight this was a bad decision.

We hope DWR will reconsider the decision to eliminate a second funding cycle of Proposition 50 funding for regions that have worked so hard to comply with the State's guidance.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important matter. If you have any questions please call me directly at (530) 642-4101.

Thank you,

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